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BOOK NOTES

General types of superior men. By OSIAS L. SCHWARZ. Boston, Richard G. Badger, 1916. 435 p.

This is a philosophical, psychological study of genius, talent and Philistinism in their bearings upon human society and its struggles for a better social order. It has a preface by Jack London and an introductory letter from Max Nordau. The main topics are, genius, talent, superior and average minds, adaptation, heredity and variability, origins and causes, conditions and incentives, types of superior men, intellectual hierarchy, classification, creative, affective, striving life, influence on the masses, affectation, normality. Max Nordau writes that the book is teeming with ideas but still more seething with feelings. It is vehement, preaching in the Old-Testament, prophetic style, abrupt, fitful, violent, and the study of genius is really a pretext for invective against the average man, who is in fact an average beast. The author does not stop to prove and Nordau says that his picture of real society, which is probably American, is ghastly and appalling. Nordau tells him his command of English is wonderful.

The fundus oculi of birds, especially as viewed by the ophthalmoscope. A study in comparative anatomy and physiology. By CASEY ALBERT WOOD. Chicago, Lakeside Press, 1917. 180 p.

This impressive quarto volume begins with a summary of conclusions, bibliography, and a review of the anatomy and physiology of the organs and tissues seen in the fundus. The author next gives us an outline of ophthalmoscopy, and then proceeds to describe his application of its methods to the fundus of living birds, the eye-ground in general, the pecten and optic disc, the macular regions, foveal blood-vessels, nerve fibres, choroid and retina. He has also succeeded in giving us some very good photographs of the fundus in living birds. An interesting section describes the effects of domestication upon it. He tells us how it differs in different orders of birds, and how it may be used as a basis of classification; discusses the relations between the reptilian and avian fundi. The text itself is illustrated by 145 cuts, and to these are appended 61 full-page colored paintings.

Nichiren, the Buddhist prophet. By MASAHARU ANESAKI. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1916. 160 p.

Religious psychology has of late been extended by the development of considerable new material, either the expressions or the studies of strong personalities. The author was encouraged to write this book by the late Professor Royce. The material is remarkably copious, considering that this great Buddhistic reformer lived in the thirteenth century, but this is partly due to the revival of his teachings and spirit in modern Japan. The first chapter describes his time; the second, his birth, studies, conversion, and the Lotus of Truth. Then in successive chapters follow his public appearance and persecution; an interlude and a narrow escape; the threatening Mongol invasion and the sentence of death; the exile in Sado and the ripening of

Nichiren's faith in his mission; the climax of his life, the graphic representation of the supreme being; release and retirement; a paradise on earth; silent prayer and anxious watching; the last stage of his life and his death. To this is appended a chapter on the Buddhist conception of reality.

Science and learning in France; with a survey of opportunities for American students in French Universities. An appreciation by American Scholars. Society for American Fellowships in French Universities, 1917. 454 p.

This is a coöperative volume designed to show Americans the contributions of France in all branches of scientific knowledge, and to show her status in the forefront of the world's progress, and especially to give American students information as to graduate work in France. Each chapter (and there are over a score of them, some with various sub-divisions) takes up a particular topic, beginning with anthropology, archaeology, astronomy, etc., and gives briefly its history and prospects. President Charles W. Eliot and Dr. George E. Hale write introductions, and then follow the contributions of some two-score authors, with a long list of some thirty double-column pages of sponsors. It is designed to be a token of national homage on the part of America to France. While most heartily commending the purpose of such a work, it must be admitted that the chapters on the different topics are not, as a whole, very luminous. Some of them particularly are very perfunctory, superficial, ill-informed, and do scant justice to their subject. A great deal of the space of most is devoted to the great men of the past, and in the present writer's estimation too little attention is given to the actual present-day opportunities. It is doubtful whether this book would really contribute much in the way of either informing or inclining young graduates to go to France.

The growth of medicine from the earliest times to about 1800. By ALBERT H. BUCK. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1917. 582 p.

The writer regrets that most medical schools give no teaching in the history of medicine but thinks two good reasons are the newness of the country and the few and rather too scientific character of texts. The latter trouble he seeks to obviate, and for those wanting something more exhaustive he refers to a more comprehensive work by Max Neuberger, of which two volumes have already appeared. He also refers to Haeser. The preface makes no mention of Sprengel's voluminous work in seven volumes, and although it is included in the author's literary references, he seems to have made very little use of it, and from the standpoint of the present reviewer he has hardly done justice to the Arabic influences in medicine. The chapters are divided into three groups, ancient, mediaeval and renaissance. The last or forty-third chapter, describes the first appearance of syphilis in Europe.

The sex worship and symbolism of primitive races. By SANGER BROWN II. Boston, Richard G. Badger, 1916. 145 p.

This is an interesting epitome of the main points and authors, old and new, in this field, from Jennings, Knight, Inman and Spencer, down to Frazer, Howitt and Miss Harrison. It contains four chapters, on simple sex worship, symbolism, sun myths, mysteries and decadent sex worship, and interpretations. The book is a very convenient epitome. The chief criticism of it, however, is that it seems to have

been written almost from start to finish in a pre-Freudian age. Only in the latter part of the book do we learn that the author has heard of this epoch-making man and his group of co-workers in a line in which this book really helps us on.

Group theories of religion and the individual. By CLEMENT C. J. WEBB. New York, Macmillan Co. (c. 1916). 208 p.

This work is devoted to an explanation of Durkheim and Lévy Bruhl, and as these views are very much in the forefront of discussion nowadays, this resumé is most opportune. There is a good deal of exposition of Durkheim, which is well, although some would perhaps wish that there had been more of this and less of the criticism of Mr. Webb. The chief topics are, the laws of contradiction and participation; Durkheim's definition of religion; criticism of his social theories of it; the social theory of categories; of pre-logical mentality; philosophical basis of the theories of the sociologists; Durkheim's philosophy of religion; group theories and individual theories of religion.

Comparative religion; its adjuncts and allies. By LOUIS HENRY JORDAN. Oxford University Press, 1915. 575 p.

Part I. discusses the avenues of approach, (1) anthropology, (2) ethnology, (3) sociology, (4) archaeology, (5) mythology, (6) philology, (7) psychology, (8) the history of religions, divided into special groups. Part II. the transition, describes the evolution of scientific method, apologetic treatises, translations of sacred texts, transactions of congresses, societies, encyclopedias, etc., special works, periodical centers of study. Part III. discusses comparative religion, its restricted idea and its legitimate scope. This is the most comprehensive attempt to depict the rise, sources, transitions, capacities and issues of this great department which does not appear now to be growing rapidly.

Gleanings from old Shaker journals. Compiled by CLARA ENDICOTT SEARS. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916. 298 p.

The Shaker village at Harvard, Massachusetts, is unique because it was the headquarters of Mother Ann Lee, when she was spreading her gospel through the eastern states in the eighteenth century. All this is of great psychological interest. The wall of reserve has hitherto made the Shakers almost inaccessible, but the old antagonism between them and the world has now pretty well died out, as have the religious excesses of the old days. Now they are peaceful, honest, and affectionately esteemed. The first few chapters deal very largely with Ann Lee and her associates, and the later chapters bring the story down to the present time. Altogether it is a very interesting study, well worth while.

The spiritual ascent of man. By W. TUDOR JONES. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1917. 247 p.

This book seeks to bring the best philosophical thought of the time within the range of the ordinary reader, and is addressed to Englishmen. The author wants to create an interest in things of the spirit in the average man, believes there is no limit to the possibility of spiritual development, that the ideal is close at hand, and the divine is possible, life cannot be reduced to matter. The chief chapters treat of the scope and limit of science, matter and life, body and mind, the intellect and nutrition, the "is" and the "ought," values, the nature of the spirit, conception of God and Christianity.

Is civilization a disease? By STANTON COIT. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1917. 136 p.

The question raised by this book has been often put before, and we have even of late heard the question discussed whether Christianity is a disease, unethical, bad or wrong. Edward Carpenter long ago published a work, once widely read, entitled "Civilization, Its Cause and Cure." The author stresses the gap between Christ and his modern worshipers. The main point, on which this work is rather sentimental, and not a very scholarly group of aphorisms, is that conventions—business, religion—of modern life do not fit man's nature and must be moulted, and he must make a new start.

Rest days: a study in early life and morality. By HUTTON WEBSTER. New York, Macmillan Co., 1916. 325 p.

This is a very interesting and learned anthropological study of the observance of days of abstinence, quiescence, often due to taboos. These are placed on days and at critical epochs by different races, also after a death. Then come chapters on holy-days, market-days, lunar superstitions and festivals, calendars and the week, Babylonian evil days, the Hebrew Sabbath, and unlucky days. The discussion of all these topics is not only learned, with countless references to original authorities, but is broad and philosophical.

Bells and bell lore; church bells of Amounderness and the Arch-deaconry of Lancaster. By T. HARRISON MYRES. Preston, Guardian Printing Works, 1916. 112 p.

This fascinating theme is treated with great detail. The material is divided into two parts. The first is the general history of bells in different countries and cities, and the origin of certain customs, while the second part is occupied chiefly with accounts of bells in different English churches, together with traditions connected with them. The book is illustrated by many small cuts and a number of full-page illustrations and infolds. It is a work of details with little or no attempt at generalization.

Modern man and his forerunners; a short study of the human species living and extinct. By H. G. F. SPURRELL. London, G. Bell and Sons, 1917. 192 p.

This is an interesting and timely compilation. The author first lays down some general principles of anthropology and discusses the zoological position of man, extinct species and races of man and their culture, the growth of human powers and habits from the neolithic age, the origins of civilization, its growth and spread, and finally man to-day.

The way to Nirvana; six lectures on ancient Buddhism as a discipline of salvation. Hibbert Lectures, Manchester College, Oxford, February-April, 1916. By L. DE LA VALLÉE ROUSSIN. Cambridge, University Press, 1917. 172 p.

This work is in six chapters, (1) Origins of the Indian Disciplines of Salvation; (2) the Buddhist Soul; (3) Buddhist Definition of Karman; (4) The Doctrine of Karman and Transmigration, Cosmogony, Theogony; (5) Nirvāna; (6) The path to Nirvāna.

The holiness of Pascal. By H. F. STEWART. (The Hulsean Lectures, 1914-15). Cambridge, University Press, 1915. 145 p.

These lectures are first, biographical; second, Pascal in controversy; third, his doctrinal system; and fourth, his personal religion.